

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

—AFFILIATED—

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DAY NURSERIES, INC.

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BULLETIN

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"Thinking of the foster child, we feel certain that the faith he needs to help him face the world must include a sustaining trust in human nature growing out of experience of love and kindness, of honesty and dependability."—MARY BUELL SAYLES

Meeting Clients' Needs Through Nursery Care

ELMA BISHOP PYKE

Following is a paper, in part, presented by Mrs. Pyke, director of the social service department of the Cleveland Day Nursery Association, at the Ohio Welfare Conference, Toledo, on October 7, 1936.

THIS paper will particularly concern itself with an understanding of the clients we are serving. What are they like? What do they want from us? How can we meet their needs? In Cleveland our various nurseries draw from quite different social and cultural levels but all parents come asking for day care for their children. That sets the stage, and the child and the parents' relationship with him stand always in the foreground. Within this group of clients our social service staff has observed certain traits that perhaps for a better word might be termed *characteristics* of our families.

The first distinguishing thing is that our families are independent and continue to be free agents throughout our contact. They ask us for something definite, a socially acceptable thing, and they expect to pay for it. Our clients set their own fees, and it is not unusual for parents to increase them when they see how much the children are gaining from the nursery. They almost always raise fees when income increases. The family that does not pay the stated amount is so unusual that we at once question the parents' attitude toward the child and look for serious trouble in the home.

Contacts tend to be informal, and the client gives as well as takes. My clients, for example, seem to have no hesitation about telling me I have on too much or too little make-up if they are in beauty work, or that the dress I am wearing is not up to my usual standard if that is their specialty. And I like it! Anyone who has lived through the experience of trying to build up initiative and self-respect in a

discouraged person will never under-evaluate this characteristic.

THIS desire and ability to be independent is a relative quality that varies from family to family, and the strength of it definitely influences our contact. Many adequate people have debts hanging over their heads these days, and day care for the child for a period of time may permit the mother to work and solve the problem. Others want to be independent and are, for ordinary experiences, but in times of strain need someone to assist them.

When we have reason to think this may happen, we try to do a more thorough study at the time of admission. The client still talks as much or little as

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Planning For National Conference

SUGGESTIONS will be welcome from members and others with regard to the programs of the Child Welfare League of America and the National Federation of Day Nurseries that are now being considered for the National Conference of Social Work, Indianapolis, May 23 to 29, 1937. The programs are to be formulated the latter part of November or early in December.

It is a pleasure to announce that Solomon Lowenstein, executive vice-president of the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies of New York City, and president-elect of the National Conference of Social Work, 1938, has accepted an invitation to speak at a joint luncheon of the Child Welfare League of America and the National Federation of Day Nurseries on Wednesday, May 26, 1937, in Indianapolis.

League Luncheon and Broadcast

ON December 1, at Hotel Roosevelt, New York City, the Child Welfare League of America will hold a "Broadcast Luncheon," to which the public is invited. This luncheon is being arranged in conjunction with the annual two-day session of the board of directors of the League in New York on November 30 and December 1.

Outstanding screen and radio celebrities have offered to entertain, and an unusual program will be sent over a *nation-wide* hook-up by the Columbia Broadcasting System from 1:30 to 2:00 P.M., E.S.T.

This will be a demonstration program to show that it is possible for the League to command sufficient talent for a series of broadcasts, and our hope is to interest some large advertiser in purchasing the series—which would mean excellent publicity for child welfare on a national scale and a substantial financial return to the League.

A half-hour symposium, "As Our Friends See Us," will follow, in which will participate: Mrs. Peter L. Harvie, Association of the Junior Leagues of America; Mrs. Clarence Fraim, National Federation of Women's Clubs; Kenneth Shaw Safe, Rhode Island S.P.C.C.; Col. Milt D. Campbell, American Legion; and Owen R. Lovejoy, American Youth Commission. Rudolph Reimer, United States Commissioner of Immigration, and president of the Brooklyn Children's Aid Society, will preside.

Luncheon reservations at \$2.00 per plate. Checks payable to Child Welfare League of America.

Adoptive Parents Discuss Adoption

IN St. Louis on October 29, under the auspices of the Sommers Children's Bureau, the Jewish child-placing agency, a meeting was held in the home of a board member for discussion with adoptive parents of questions anent adoption. Harry Stern, chairman of the agency's adoption committee, presided. About twenty guests attended, having been invited merely on the basis of being adoptive parents and regardless of whether or not they had used the adoption facilities of this particular agency.

Miss Sybil Foster, field secretary of the Child Welfare League of America, who spoke at the meeting on adoption safeguards provided by agencies with high standards of case work, reports that much interest was manifested in the discussion.

A permanent study group is being considered. Such a step in St. Louis and elsewhere would bring to bear on the adoption standards of agencies the stim-

ulation of united, representative lay interest; and such groups would be extremely helpful, Miss Foster believes, in eliminating unsound practices of agencies that are now being accepted by adoptive parents without understanding of the implications to themselves and to the children they secure from such agencies.

Much of the discussion centered upon ways in which to develop a child's feeling of security. This the group felt, is the problem of "child training which is perhaps most accentuated with the adopted child.

An instance was presented by Miss Viola Oschrein, executive of the Sommers Children's Bureau, to indicate how fully the possible emotional implications are explored by the agency before the adoption in order to avoid, if possible, later conflicts. A certain couple had given thought and careful planning to the adoption process. When the final issue came, although greatly attracted to the child considered suitable to their home, they experienced considerable concern as to what the feeling of this baby of a Jewish mother and Gentile father would be upon reaching adolescence or adult life when he realized that he might equally well have been brought up in either group. They questioned their right to decide this for the child.

It was arranged for the couple to talk with adoptive parents who had been through a similar experience and with two socially-minded rabbis. After this, they returned home without taking the child to think the matter through and reach their decision.

The group discussed the suggestions made to these adopting parents by the rabbis, and felt that they were sound and helpful.

The Wage Home—Today

"FINDING wage homes is difficult. True, there are many homes looking for 'cheap' help, but such a home does not meet our requirements. The wage home experience must mean a constructive step in the education of the child. Here, as in all our other types of foster homes, there must be a real love and interest in children. In addition to the need for a household helper there must be a genuine desire to share in the service to children."

—ELEANOR F. TYLER, Member of Board of Managers and Director of Public Relations of the Children's Community Center, New Haven, Connecticut.

Down in Kentucky

RECENT news releases issued to county judges and to newspapers of the State by the Kentucky Children's Home Society, Lyndon, Kentucky, present a graphic description of problems faced by this organization and its new superintendent, Kenneth L. Messenger, formerly deputy commissioner, Division of Child Welfare, State of Connecticut, and ex-secretary of the League's board of directors. During the past months members of the League staff have been planning closely with this organization, which is located not far from Louisville. The releases, in part, are as follows:

THE Kentucky Children's Home Society is face to face with a very critical situation. This organization is the only non-sectarian group caring for dependent and neglected children from all parts of the State who are committed by the county judges. It carries on a cooperative program—one in which the State, counties and private individuals combine to give Kentucky's unfortunate children the help which they so sorely need.

The drouth has hit our rural areas mighty hard, and this, added to the somewhat abnormal economic conditions, has brought to Lyndon an unusually large number of children. New commitments have increased and, in addition, many children have been returned because their foster parents have been unable to keep them. During July and August, 127 children came back to our institution from these homes. This is four times the number of children usually returned during a similar period.

These same drouth conditions are making it extremely difficult to find homes in which to place children. We are faced, therefore, with a rapidly increasing population and have now reached the maximum number which we can care for in the Home. We have today 430 children in buildings with a normal capacity of 250.

With the exception of the hospital, the baby ward and one other ward, there are two children sleeping in every single bed, and some are sleeping on the floor. Beds are less than one foot apart, when they should be three feet, and in our dormitories there is only 150 cubic feet of air space per child when there should be 600 cubic feet. This, of course, means our children are not able to get the proper amount of fresh air at night. *We like to feel that fresh air is free, but our kiddies are being deprived of even this.*

To make this situation worse, there are today over 200 children scattered through the State who should be admitted, some committed for the first time and others returned from foster homes.

This crowded situation is made infinitely worse by the presence of 75 to 100 feeble-minded children. One has only to walk through our wards to realize the large proportion in this group. This makes it impossible to formulate a constructive program for our normal children and makes it extremely difficult to treat each child as an individual, as rules must be made under such circumstances primarily for the group. If this group of feeble-minded children could be taken care of elsewhere, we could do much more for the others who are being penalized by their presence.

The institution has never had a school building and now with such crowded conditions, facilities are most inadequate. Children must be crowded into small rooms of a dwelling house and due to the large number which makes it necessary to have more groups than otherwise would be necessary no child is able to spend the normal and desired amount of time in school. This is all the more deplorable because the children come to us from homes where their education has been sadly neglected. More than any other group of children in the State, they need the very best educational opportunities rather than suffer from such handicaps as are now unavoidable.

To meet this increased demand, our budget has been *decreased* about \$25,000. The General Assembly felt it necessary to reduce our annual appropriation from \$100,000 to \$90,000 and a further cut of 10 per cent has been given our first quarter's allotment. If the State's income is sufficient, this latter cut may be made up in the future, but there is no certainty of this and we must therefore plan on a basis of a \$19,000 reduction. We are hoping that receipts from counties will not decrease. In addition to this cut, the drouth has resulted in a loss of at least \$5,000 here at our farm. We have, therefore, this situation to face—a greatly increasing number of children and a greatly reduced budget with which to care for them. We shall be unable to care for these children adequately unless more money is forthcoming.

It is this dire situation which has forced us to ask all county judges to write us when they are thinking

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BULLETIN

Published monthly (omitted in July and August) as the official organ of the Child Welfare League of America and the National Federation of Day Nurseries.

C. C. CARSTENS, Editor
FLORENCE M. PHARO, Assistant Editor

The Bulletin is in large measure a Forum for discussion in print of child welfare problems. Endorsement does not necessarily go with the printing of opinions expressed over a signature.

Annual subscription, \$1.00 Single copies, 10c.
Checks payable to Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

Gifts and Bequests

THE death of Senator Couzens brings to mind his great benefactions to the children of Michigan and of the United States. The Children's Fund of Michigan has brought health, happiness and hope for a bright future to many thousands of boys and girls.

The Senator's gift of millions was not only generous. It was also unique in that he expressed therein his philosophy of giving, in making the Fund self-limiting. In twenty-one years it is to have used itself up, principal and interest.

In times past there was much more doubt about the value of large gifts or bequests. For example, the philosopher, Hume, wished to endow the Christian church so that by this means he might be able to kill it. That attitude undoubtedly arose in part from the fact that the terms of gifts and bequests in the past were usually narrow, but the great foundations of this century—whether by gift, as Senator Couzens' or by will, as Russell Sage's—are not a menace because the terms on which they are given have been made flexible, and the trustees have been given wide discretion in their use as long as they remain within the general purpose.

It is possible that higher rates of federal, state and local taxes may in the future have a tendency to interfere with or cramp the building of large foundations. Their usefulness, however, is questioned by few.

But bequests do not need to run into seven figures to be useful. The various charitable and educational enterprises gain a stability through substantial unhampered funds whose value is greater than the larger service made possible alone expresses.

There is, however, a value in the necessity for a social service agency to obtain one-half or at least one-third of its budget from year to year from the

general public through individual appeals or through the joint appeal of a community chest. It is good for the agency to have to convince a group outside its own board of trustees that its work is worth while doing.

We would urge private agencies to build up endowments if at all possible, and we hope that the time will not soon come when the generous citizen will be forced or inclined to forego the opportunity of extending his service beyond his life-time. The risks connected with the administration of endowment funds are less than formerly, and those risks are being substantially lessened by the development of state supervision of charitable enterprises.

—C. C. CARSTENS

Meeting Clients' Needs Through Nursery Care

(Continued from page 1)

he wishes, and we do not contact relatives or employers, but we do read of his use of other agencies and we spend more time with him. We always tell our families to feel free to consult us regarding questions or suggestions, but with this second group the social worker offers the opportunity for a positive relationship that will make it easy for them to come to us when under stress.

This characteristic of independence influences our treatment in another way. The person who feels fairly adequate can admit some weakness and not be just talking. This makes it easier for them to take help in areas in which assistance is needed.

THE second characteristic, more apparent after the family knows us for a time, is one of identification and participation in the nursery. Our buildings give tangible evidence of our presence and since the family comes morning and evening, parents soon feel like old-timers. As evidence of this characteristic, we might cite a rummage sale among parents to raise money for new curtains, offering their services as janitor, maid, or assistant when there is a temporary interruption, and wanting their children to attend because they did as youngsters and received so much from it.

One mother who recently withdrew her child said she gained much from interviews with her case worker to whom we referred her a year ago but if anything came up in connection with her son she would come to us because we understood him better than any one else. This is a tremendous challenge

and responsibility: If this mother returns, will we have enough understanding of the boy to help her? Will we be able to give that help in such a way that she leaves with more appreciation of herself and child, free and able to make her own plans? This identification with the nursery can be a positive, constructive force, bringing out the best and acting as a stabilizing factor. On the other hand, it can be poisonous.

If the nursery accepts the responsibility for making decisions for the parents, they will soon lose their desire and confidence to make their own. We then live a contradiction in that we try to help our children grow up but make it easy for our parents to slip back to an immature level. It is much easier to make the decision ourselves and we may be fooled by profuse appreciation from our more dependent clients, but we weaken them every time we do it. The client may need help in making plans, and it can be done constructively.

Mrs. B. deserted, leaving a son, now seven, with Mr. B. Mr. B. is young and immature, obviously unable to be even an adequate father, let alone father and mother. He has never been able to hold a job, but spends his time studying astronomy, medicine and literature. He quotes these to cover up feelings of inferiority because he has not been successful in anything, including marriage.

The child has always been difficult, with much behavior aimed at getting attention from adults. This he tried to secure by crying, teasing, annoying other children, having temper tantrums, and rebelling at any form of routine. This behavior was just as marked after three years of consistent unemotional discipline in the nursery as it had been earlier.

Jim needs much more affection than the father can give, and has not found enough satisfaction in the nursery. Placement seemed indicated, but Mr. B. must make this decision himself. Appointments were made for psychological and psychiatric interviews to discuss the child and Mr. B.'s work adjustment, over which he expressed concern. He began the interview by obvious attempts to prove superiority but these dropped away as he talked of his many troubles and his confusion about future plans. He said he knew Jim was difficult because of the home and often thought of placing him, but could not face his own loneliness.

At the end of the third interview we find that Jim is to be placed any day, Mr. B. having requested this himself because he knew he was selfish in denying him the opportunity. During the year he has set he has decided to get some practical training and is discussing his interests, abilities, and community resources for this. The psychiatrist seems to be invested with the father rôle at this time, but Mr. B. is doing his own thinking with this stimulation.

A THIRD thing we have noticed is that we have a large number of *rejected* children. The day nursery seems often to be a sort of compromise for disposing of the child part of the day, yet not feeling guilty for having "given him away." Rejection may be on a reality basis with sickness, death, and economic difficulties so crowding in that the children seem too much of a burden, or it may be due to emotional immaturity of one or both parents.

Regardless of the cause, we have a large number of emotionally deprived children, and this must be kept in mind in hiring personnel. We have observed that a child rejected at home makes a transfer to the adults in the nursery before feeling close to any of the children. Perhaps it is that a satisfactory emotional experience with a parent-person must precede a good contact with anyone else. Furthermore, we observe that the child makes his transfer to the adult most like his parents in physical appearance or personality, whether or not she be in charge of his little group.

Last year we were conscious of accepting many applications for emotionally deprived children, and we played a game with ourselves to see how often we could correctly predict the adult who would first interest these youngsters. Our success was one hundred per cent.

In another instance we had reason to believe from the application interview that the child was unwanted. We could not understand why he dogged the footsteps of a rather large worker who was maternal in her attitude, as the mother was a slight, tense person. Later we learned that the child was born out of wedlock when his mother was only sixteen. He had been given physical care by his grandmother, but she was so ashamed of what she considered a stigma that the child could not help feeling something was wrong. The child's own mother, who had meanwhile lived outside the home, recently married and took him when her family insisted. The boy was actually trying to find his grandmother, who had not given him enough love but whom he knew much better than his own mother.

It is a thrilling experience to see a child gradually grow from the adult person to perhaps the weaker members of the group and then on to full participation in nursery life. The implications for personnel are apparent—we must have a large enough staff for a child to have the feeling he "knows" the assistant, and it must be made up of mature people. They must have enough stability so they can live their own lives fully, yet have considerable to give to

others. Better no gift of love at all than an Indian gift that exacts and keeps an emotional response from the child, however.

A recent study of some nursery school children demonstrated to us that we must take this rejection into consideration in admitting families as well as in planning our program. We set out to learn to which families we were making the greatest contribution, and discovered that in some the child apparently felt so insecure at home that he could make no adjustment in the environment in which he was "dumped" for the day. Another group from quite similar homes was free enough to take from the routine, training, and group associations in the nursery to supplement the home to some extent. It is possible that different factors were operating in these homes of which we were not conscious, but we were convinced that the make-up of the child—dependence, sensitivity, and mode of reaction—was important. The child who develops fears as a result of family quarrels is much harder to reach than one who holds out for his share of attention by having his own temper tantrums.

We found that the day nursery was used most constructively when the parents had sublimated or compensated their rejection in a drive to get something for their children, as in the following example:

Mrs. C. did not want any more children, and when triplets were born to her it seemed the end of everything. She refused to take them from the hospital for weeks, and when she finally did, let one of them die from neglect. When referred to the nursery they were described as little animals. They talked their own jargon as they climbed furniture or rolled over each other in play. The house was upset and the children dirty and poorly fed.

Mrs. C. has wanted opportunities for all her children, and soon after the younger ones were enrolled in the nursery she noticed that they looked worse than any others there. Beginning with the outside layer, she cleaned them up, and is so enthusiastic about their progress that she is begging us to take some of the older ones in the family. The children now will not play in a dirty room, and house-keeping standards have improved, although they are by no means perfect yet. The play and speech of the children have gradually changed as they have found interest and brought others into their games.

IN stressing these three forces that we see operating in so many of our families—a desire to be independent, a feeling of belonging to the nursery, and rejection—we hoped to clarify and widen our understanding of these clients.

A mother came to one of our nurseries after a busy day and after examining the place with a critical eye

said, "At least it is clean." She said almost nothing, and the superintendent had no idea of the tremendous burden she was carrying. Left a widow just three months ago, forced to move from a \$13,000 home to modest, cramped quarters with sick parents, and faced with being a father and mother to three small children had made her quite a different person than she wanted to be. When the superintendent learned of these difficulties, her response was quite different and the mother in return dropped her critical attitude.

Another woman had a temper outburst when told we could not keep children after six o'clock. "Something has to be done. I can't go on." The superintendent knew in this instance that the woman was upset over caring for a feeble-minded sister and her child, and spontaneously and in a genuine way agreed that the responsibility was great. The woman's behavior changed at once, and she left, accepting of nursery rules and with her chin up to go on. No word need be said to convey to another that you appreciate and understand his troubles, but if he feels it in your attitude he is stronger and you will have made another contribution.

I purposely have not discussed in detail intensive case work or psychiatric treatment. There are many cases in which only this skilled care can effect any fundamental change, and hopefully the time will come when it is available to every nursery. It is better not to attempt this delicate work than to do it poorly, however. At this stage of our development we can be happy if we are like Mendes in Stone's story of Van Gogh's life. "With Uncle Jan and Uncle Stricker one's words hit a precise wall and bounced back to the tune of Yes! or No! Mendes always bathed one's thought in the deep well of his mellow wisdom before he returned it."

Down in Kentucky

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of committing any children. We will then send out a field worker just as soon as possible who will talk over the whole situation with them. With no more space in our institution, we can accept children only as fast as we can find private homes for children already here. This means that only the neediest cases can be admitted until this congestion is over. We are endeavoring to give the best service we can for the children most in need.

BUT while our immediate situation is serious, we believe there is relief in sight. After conferring with

Mrs. Mabel Marks, director of the State Child Welfare Division, in the Department of Welfare, it is our understanding that in the not too distant future there may be State and Federal funds available for the care of dependent children in their own homes or with close relatives.

Surely we all agree that if it is possible to keep children in their own homes they should never be removed, for, after all, blood is thicker than water. With this money, which will probably be available soon, it will not be necessary to remove children from homes in which they can be kept with the aid of a small allowance. Old age assistance is already being granted and it is comforting to know that assistance will soon be given for our children who have good parents or relatives. . . . all cases where there is no abuse will be referred to the State Department. *If you could hear our children here on the grounds beg to go back home, you would realize more than ever what it means for a child to be with his own kinfolks.*

There is also a further possibility that through the State Department additional help through other services for children may soon be possible due to the use of Federal funds.

Professional Status

SOCIAL WORK AS A PROFESSION, by Esther Lucille Brown. Published by Russell Sage Foundation, 130 E. 22nd St., New York, N. Y., second edition, 1936. 119 pages. Price, 75 cents.

MISS BROWN's book was originally planned for publication as a chapter in a single volume comparing conditions in the professions but was published separately because it was felt that it, as well as treatises on the other professions which hopefully may follow, would serve a wider purpose in briefer and distinctive form. In spite of this separateness of form, the book does not ignore the growth of the other professions, their effect upon the development of social work, nor differences in their present status.

It does, however, in a remarkably short space, present a clear picture of the evolution of a mass of activity from well-intentioned but possibly harmful blundering to something aspiring to and perhaps achieving professional status. It gives valuable factual data on the growth of education for social work and on current concepts as to the content of education, at least insofar as that content is reflected in the curricula of actual schools.

To the excellent *reasons* for education given by Miss Brown, this reviewer, at the risk of unorthodox inclusion of poetic fancy in the sober prose evalua-

tion which this most realistic study deserves, would add some verses from "The Fool's Prayer," by Edward Rowland Sill (*The Oxford Book of American Verse*, page 371, published by Albert and Charles Boni):

The royal feast was done; the king
Sought some new sport to banish care,
And to his jester cried: "Sir Fool,
Kneel now, and make for us a prayer!"

* * *

He bowed his head, and bent his knee
Upon the monarch's silken stool;
His pleading voice arose: "O Lord,
Be merciful to me, a fool!"

* * *

"'Tis not by guilt the onward sweep
Of truth and right, O Lord, we stay;
'Tis by our follies that so long
We hold the earth from heaven away.

"These clumsy feet, still in the mire,
Go crushing blossoms without end;
These hard, well-meaning hands we thrust
Among the heart-strings of a friend.

"The ill-timed truth we might have kept—
Who knows how sharp it pierced and stung!
The word we had not sense to say—
Who knows how grandly it had rung!"

* * *

"Earth bears no balsam for mistakes;
Men crown the knave, and scourge the tool
That did his will; but Thou, O Lord,
Be merciful to me, a fool!"

* * *

In her text, the author confuses "family case work" with case work (page 53), but since this is a confusion common among some family case workers themselves, it is perhaps forgivable in a statistician.

There are interesting tables on the number of students in professional schools of social work, on the number of graduates of schools, and on the number of social workers. There are figures on salaries with comment on the effect of salary range upon an achievable standard of living and upon professional prestige.

This book is a highly valuable compilation of relevant data in convenient form. It will provide a most thought-provoking challenge to social workers, board members, tax-paying citizens, and to all who feel concern for the quality of service to be given our socially maladjusted fellows. Certainly no social worker should miss it.—ETHEL TAYLOR, Member of Faculty, New York School of Social Work, New York.

A. O. A. Meeting

THE fourteenth annual meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association will be held February 18 to 20, 1937, at the Roosevelt Hotel, New York City. Edgar A. Doll, Ph.D., The Training School, Vineland, New Jersey, is president of the society; George S. Stevenson, M.D., 50 West 50th Street, New York City, is secretary.

Publication on Nutrition

"SOME rather remarkable work has been done by the part-time nutritionist in the Children's Council of the Welfare Federation of Cleveland," writes Lawrence D. Cole, executive secretary of the Cleveland Children's Bureau, "in relationship to our Cleveland children's institutions.

"In particular, her publication, *CAMP NUTRITION*, costing \$1.00 a copy, is full of valuable material, both as to procedures, menus, diets, et cetera, and although labeled for camps, is largely a result of her work with other institutions. I know many institutions would welcome the opportunity of buying it if they knew of its availability."

According to a report of the Committee on Nutrition and Diets of the Children's Council, copies of this publication have been sold to camps in all parts of the United States and Canada. During the past year the Committee has published ten bulletins on: Food prices; nutritional factors for children's institutions; and menus and recipes for children's institutions.

Just Off the Press

TO all BULLETIN subscribers a folder is being sent with this issue announcing *SUBSTITUTE PARENTS*, by Mary Buell Sayles; published October, 1936, by the Commonwealth Fund, 41 East 57th Street, New York; cloth bound, 309 pages, \$1.75 a copy.

Following is a summary with regard to the purpose of the book:

"There are innumerable books and articles of advice on how to rear children, and studies of children who have deviated in one way or another from the path of wholesome development, often through parental failures, but a need has long existed for a study of parents who deal wisely and helpfully with the youngsters under their care.

"The obstacle in the way of such research is that happy homes seldom open their doors to the social investigator. The possible exception is the foster home, already known to the agency, and often pre-

sided over by women and men who prove themselves remarkable mother- and father-substitutes. Children and foster parents are matched so far as possible to provide a happy adjustment.

"This study of child-placing records was undertaken with the hope that the glimpses of constructive parent-child relationships might balance the destructive ones about which so much has been written. The book is intended for any reader who is interested in children primarily from the parent's point of view, or anyone who cares to learn what relationships developed in foster homes may mean to foster parents as well as to children."

Wanted: Corrections for Directory

AS an economy measure, the twelfth edition of the directory of member organizations issued by the Child Welfare League of America in January, 1935, has been serving in 1936, and a new one is now urgently needed. It is planned to send copy for the 1937 directory to the printer early in December. *The League office will appreciate it very much if each member agency will send prompt notice as to whether its present listing is correct, or whether there is a revision.*

League Directory Change

CONNECTICUT—Hartford: The Children's Village of the Hartford Orphan Asylum. Miss Bertha M. Franz, Executive Director, succeeding Miss Elsie L. Burks, Superintendent.

Enclosures

(Sent to League Member Agencies Only)

FOSTER FAMILY CARE. Three printed pages of selected bibliography compiled by Margaret M. Otto. Library Bulletin, Number 139, published bi-monthly by Russell Sage Foundation, 130 E. 22nd St., New York City, 10 cents a copy, 50 cents a year.

STANDARDS FOR FOSTER CARE OF CHILDREN IN MARYLAND, a study undertaken by a Committee of the Children's Council of the Maryland State Conference of Social Welfare. Printed pamphlet, 48 pages. Copies supplied through courtesy of Maryland Board of State Aid and Charities, 937 Calvert Bldg., Baltimore, Md. (In cases where a copy has already been supplied, this enclosure is not being included with the BULLETIN.) A letter states, "We shall be glad to send it to others upon request, without charge, provided no more than three copies are asked for by one organization."

WHY WE COME TO YOU. Small printed folder recently sent to prospective contributors by the Child Welfare League of America. Copies will be sent upon request.

HAPPENINGS, Number 1, November, 1936. An 8-page printed folder issued by the Child Welfare League of America to tell contributors and others about some of the current interests and activities of the League. It is planned to issue this small publication at various intervals throughout the year. Copies will be sent upon request, as long as supply lasts.